

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA; P.L. 111-148). Among its many provisions, PPACA creates a mandate for most U.S. residents to obtain health insurance and provides for the establishment of insurance exchanges through which certain individuals and families will be able to receive federal subsidies to reduce the cost of purchasing that coverage. The American people deserved action on health care to lower costs and expand access, but this bill will unfortunately not supply the improvements we need.

I will continue working to restore common sense to the debate over an exceedingly important issue for every American. I am very concerned about the rising cost of health care, particularly prescription drugs. I believe a key way to make health care more affordable is through the utilization of generic drugs. Generic medications comprise 69 percent of all prescriptions in this country, yet only 16% of all dollars spent on prescriptions. Generic drugs save consumers an estimated \$8 to \$10 billion a year at retail pharmacies. With Congressman Welch (D- VT), we formed the Congressional Affordable Medicines Caucus. This Caucus will educate other Members of Congress about generic drugs and biologics. Please review below a few of the bills I have sponsored and co-sponsored regarding health care.

HR 238: Military Retiree Health Care Act of 2011

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a refundable tax credit for premiums paid to enroll military retirees and their spouses and surviving spouses for supplementary medical insurance under part B of title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act.

HR 741: To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the marketing of authorized generic drugs.

Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit a holder of a new, approved drug application from commencing to manufacture, market, sell, or distribute a generic version of such drug from the time of the receipt of notice from the generic manufacturer that an abbreviated new drug application has been submitted for approval until the expiration or forfeiture of the exclusivity period granted to the generic manufacturer.

HR 2, Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act

Repeals the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and restores provisions of the law amended by such Act.

HR 4, Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) repeal requirements for the reporting to the IRA of payments of \$600 or more to corporations that are not tax-exempt and of gross proceeds paid in consideration for any type of property; (2) repeal requirements for reporting payments made with respect to rental property which is not part of a trade or business; and (3) increase, for taxable years ending after December 31, 2013, the advance applicable dollar amount of the tax credit for health care premium assistance for taxpayers whose household income is less than 400% of the poverty line.

HR 605, Patients' Freedom to Choose Act

This bill repeals Sections 9005 and 10902 of ACA and section 1403 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and will allow consumers to choose how much they will set aside to pay out-of-pocket health care costs through Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs). FSAs are particularly important for patients with chronic diseases, who often see multiple providers and take multiple medications.

HR 1398, Rural Hospital Protection Act

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to treat certain provider taxes as allowable costs for purposes of Medicare reimbursements to critical access hospitals.

H.R. 984, the Health Care Waiver Fairness Act

Amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Treasury to establish waiver processes under which the administrator of a health plan, an employer, an individual, or other entity may seek to waive the application of a health insurance coverage requirement under PPACA. Sets forth PPACA requirements that may be waived, including those related to minimum essential coverage and employers offering health care coverage to employees.

H.R. 1252, Medicare Information Act

Amends part A of title XI of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide to each eligible individual annually a statement of Medicare part A (Hospital Insurance) contributions and benefits in coordination with the annual mailing of Social Security account statements.

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